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**WILLIAM C. DUCKHAM**  
*Duckham's Famous Delphiniums, Perennials  
and Hardy Roses*



*Cor. Woodland Road & Noe Ave.*  
**MADISON, NEW JERSEY**

September 14, 1934.

Dear Friend:

The finest flowers - like the noblest friends - do something to the "inside" of a man, no matter how unsentimental he may appear. They take the tightness and tenseness out of the day's struggle. They inspire peace - and it's said that peace is strength.

This is the time to plant delphiniums about your home, and since I know you want only the most beautiful plants for your premises, I am bringing to your attention within this letter a few actual photographs of my pedigreed types - the results of years of research, cultivation and breeding.

They'll grow just as brilliantly and colorfully in your garden and I'm sure they'll be the pride of your family and friends when they peep out of their slim, stately stems next spring.

The glamorous blends and shadings as well as the exquisite form of Duckham Delphiniums are admired today on hundreds of estates noted for their floral landscaping. Year after year horticultural societies and national exhibits have honored my perennials with medals and testimonials. This season, I feel that I have achieved my greatest triumph in my hybrids and I can promise you a thrilling spectacle when the blooms come out in your grounds.

The time to plant is late summer and early fall. Please take time to order now - it will mean much to you later. For nothing you can give to your family and intimates will inspire and stimulate their love of home and their belief in beauty more than these superb perennials that hint silently and eloquently of the ideal. May I suggest you use the enclosed card in ordering? Your desires will have my personal attention.

Faithfully yours,

William C. Duckham





## Selected Types and Colors

Where personal selection is made by a customer in my fields during the summer, I charge according to the merit of each plant selected. For those who cannot visit my grounds, but who desire some of these extra-choice types, I have already put aside some of these and offer them as

### Super-Hybrids

**\$2.50, \$5.00, and \$7.50  
each and up**

All of them are field-grown clumps, thoroughly acclimated, hardy, and will bloom profusely this year.

The colors cover the complete range from deepest indigo-blue and violet to the faintest lavender, mauve and peach-cheek hues, almost bordering on true pink. And the flowers are not confined to one or two shades. We find deep blue with white and a brown "bee" (center of flower); violet-purple, purple, and light blue with a black "bee"; lavender, pink, light blue, with a yellow "bee," and a host of other four-tone effects, all in the one flower.

Such combinations are unusual and it is these that have made my Delphiniums famous—unusually famous. It is such combinations that have caused them to be termed "Wonders of the Wily Ways of Wizards" in plant-hybridization.

*My Delphiniums adorn the flower borders of some of the finest estates in America*



**GET THEM FROM DUCKHAM**

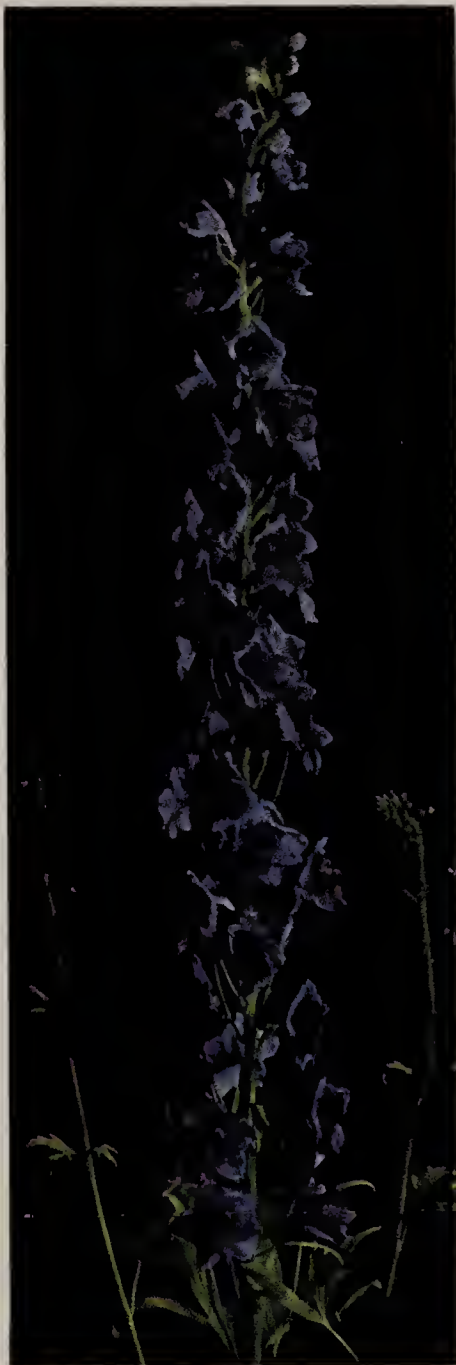




Although these hybrids comprise many new types of delicate colors, all are extremely hardy, and well-established clumps in the border provide, year after year, wonderful spikes of majestic size and great beauty. They are also very desirable for cutting for indoor decoration, lending a delightful tone to mixed flower arrangements, harmonizing extremely well with yellow and orange flowers, particularly the deeper blue, violet and purple shades.

### PREVENT DELPHINIUM BLIGHT

The following mixture is very effective: One teaspoonful of Black-Leaf 40 and one tablespoonful of Bordeaux mixture to one gallon of soap-water (any kind of soap-water will do—its action is only a spreader). Spray frequently and thoroughly.



#### *Duckham's Inimitable Mixed* **DELPHINIUM SEED**

SAVED ONLY FROM CHOICEST VARIETIES  
Cultural directions enclosed with each order. **Pkt. \$2.00.**

#### *Duckham's Unnamed* **MIXED DELPHINIUMS**

**Regular Grade:** This covers the entire color-range from mauve and lavender to deep blue and violet. **\$11 per doz.; \$85 per 100.**

### Helpful Hints on Growing Delphiniums

In choosing a site for your border, select one with a southern aspect, sheltered from the north by wall, hedge fence, or shrubbery. Don't plant them in low-lying, damp ground. Delphiniums like well-drained, clayey soil, deeply dug, and heavily fertilized with rotten manure.

Prepare the soil several weeks before planting. Leave it in the rough after spading in the manure to give it time to settle and permit the manure to mix with it thoroughly. Spade second time before planting.

Choose a clear, dry day for the work. Unpack the plants immediately on arrival. Keep them away from cellar or boiler heat. Plant temporarily or cover with mats outside until ready to plant.

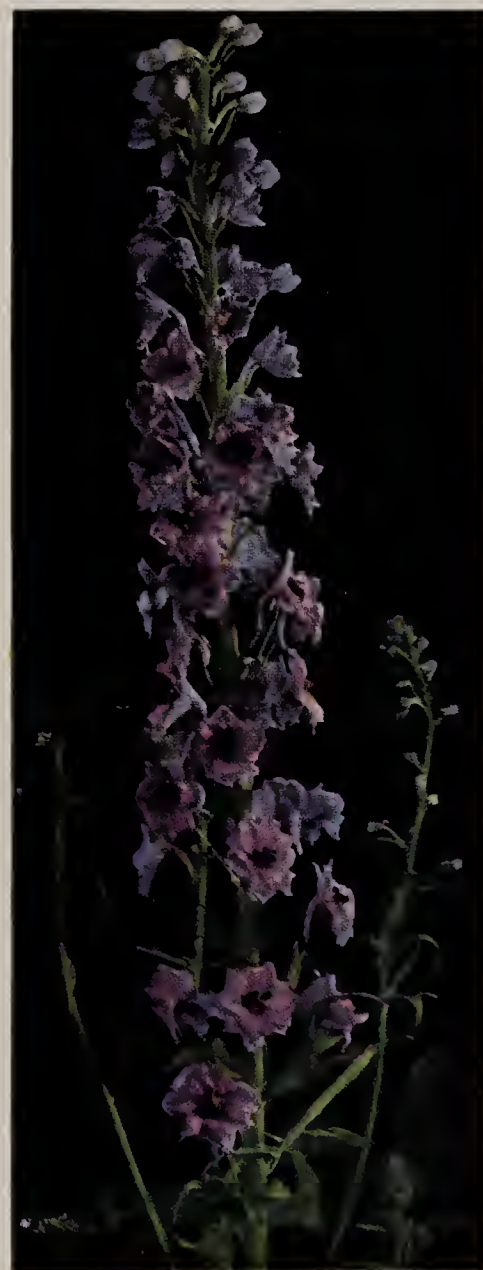
Plant at least 3 feet away from other plants in the border, preferably in the back row. Make holes wide enough to accommodate the roots spread out. Hold crown of plant level with surface of bed, spread out roots, pack earth between and over them.

Place a stout 5-foot stake in hole to tie and protect the growing shoots later.

Plant in the spring as early as possible—when soil is in a workable, friable form. Plant in the fall from September 15 to November 15. Either season is good if proper attention is given to planting details.

Apply any good artificial fertilizer at intervals of a few weeks in summer. Water regularly and often. Cut away old (first) flower-spikes after blooming to induce a second crop.

Spray regularly with Black-Leaf 40 (1 teaspoonful to 1 gallon of soap-water) to prevent or check attacks of black-spot and insects.



WILLIAM C. DUCKHAM, MADISON, N. J.





# NEW TYPES

OF AMAZING SIZE AND INFINITELY MORE BEAUTIFUL  
COLORS ARE PRESENTED IN

## Duckham's Delphiniums

*Superb forms and colors that have awakened  
a new interest in these most charming old-  
fashioned flowers*



GOLD MEDAL. Special award New  
York Hort. Soc. International Show  
and numerous awards elsewhere.

FOR YEARS and years the Delphinium or old-fashioned Larkspur has been a favorite among gems of loveliness for the hardy border.

However beautiful the old varieties were, they are not to be compared with the modern types, the choicest of which are still in the hands of a few specialists who devote their whole time to bringing them to a still higher state of perfection.

My Delphiniums are now well known in every state from Maine to California. At every flower show where they have been exhibited they have invariably outclassed every competing group. For three years my exhibits have carried off the highest honors with three special Gold Medals at the great New York show, where the world's finest Delphiniums have been shown.

Single, semi-double, and double flowers, glorious color shading from indigo-blue to pale mauve, lavender, soft pink, and white, cover one-half to two-thirds of the giant 5- and 6-foot spikes. Every dozen plants include practically the entire color-range of this magnificent strain.

No hardy flower border is complete without them. A few of these beautiful spikes are reproduced in natural colors on the preceding pages, accompanied by the story of Duckham's Delphiniums.

Since the last issue of my Catalogue, I have once more won the highest awards for my Delphiniums at the leading shows in America. Some of the new colors and unique forms are truly amazing in their beauty. I keep in continuous touch with the English sources of the hybrids I originally imported and distributed in America, and have been fortunate in securing special favors from them by receiving consignments of their very choicest creations. Adding these to my already famous strain has made it unique and outstanding in superiority.

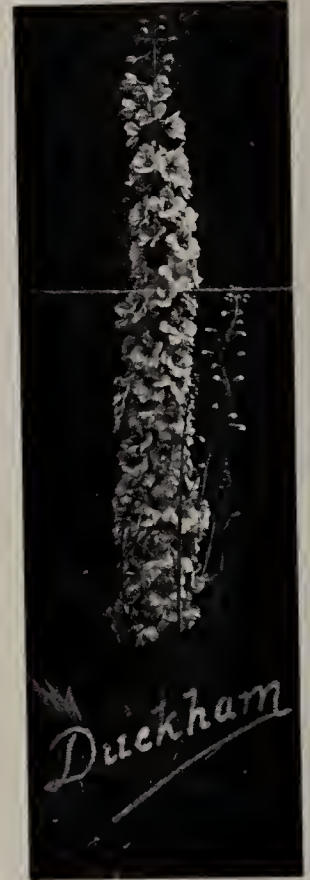
Young plants which produced their first flowers last fall (1933), and which are offered for spring planting, will bring many delightful surprises to those who order now.

I have many letters from customers in all parts of the country expressing the pleasure and satisfaction they have enjoyed from my plants—particularly those who purchased my newest strains of the last few years.

A momentary thought occurred to me of reducing the price of my Delphiniums this year. I understand growers of a general line of hardy plants are doing so. But when I considered the magnificent and very expensive types I have added to them, I felt that having so considerably increased the quality of my plants I shall be really giving much greater value by charging the same price as in former years.

In every state of the Union, my Delphiniums now form conspicuous colonies in the gardens of estates famed for their beauty. The spikes are of huge proportions, standing 5 to 6 feet high, on "walking-cane" stems. Some of these are broad at the base, tapering to a fine point; others are columnar, like five or six hyacinth spikes joined end to end. Again, some spikes are compact, with the individual florets touching and overlapping, while others have the more open formation, so graceful in the estimation of connoisseurs.

The flowers are quite double in some spikes, showing distinctly two rows of petals; others are semi-double; and there are quite a number of the single-flowered sorts also, exhibiting special individual charm.



HUGE SPIKES (OF THE TYPICAL  
WREXHAM STRAIN) ON ONE  
PLANT



ONE OF MY GOLD MEDAL EXHIBITS—NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL SHOW

Join the Delphinium Society of America  
WE WILL FORWARD YOUR APPLICATION

WILLIAM C. DUCKHAM, MADISON, N. J.